**Thomas Edison NHP** News Release

For Immediate Release
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**THOMAS EDISON AND MOTION PICTURES- JULY 2014
Year of Innovation Series Continues**

WEST ORANGE, NJ – Edison's 1888 idea of inventing an instrument "which does for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear which is the recording and reproduction of things in motion" led to the creation of the movie industry. At West Orange, Edison and his team invented a motion picture camera, built studios to produce motion pictures and created companies to manufacture projectors and films. Explore these ideas, attend a program, and see a special exhibit of original artifacts, documents and historic photos during the month of July at Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NHP). The programs are free with admission and will be held at the Laboratory Complex at 211 Main Street unless noted.

 **1st Friday – July 4th at 2:30 p.m.
A Walk through Motion Picture History**

Learn about the innovations in motion picture technology that were developed at Thomas Edison's laboratory. Take a guided walk of the laboratory and learn about movie technology that transformed human communication.

 **2nd Saturday – July 12th at 10:00 a.m. (especially for children)
Thomas Edison and the Motion Picture Industry - Hollywood New Jersey**

Come join us and learn about what Thomas Edison was doing in the motion picture industry. Make your own short 30 second movie using IPads and stop motion photography. See how your movies compare to some of Thomas Edison's early 30 second movies. This is a children's event with parent or guardian supervision.

 **3rd Thursday – July 17th at 7:00 p.m. At the WEST ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Lights! Camera! Edison!**

**Edward Wirth**

Lights! Camera! Edison! is an overview of Thomas Edison's role in the birth of motion pictures here in West Orange and his 30-year career in the movie business. This presentation will feature glimpses of Edison's earliest experimental films and never-seen images of Edison movie-making now stored in the vaults of Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

Edward Wirth is an archivist at Thomas Edison National Historical Park and has worked with the Park's Historical Photograph Collection for 27 years. He is the author of Thomas Edison in West Orange (Arcadia, 2008) a photographic collection that documents Edison's work at his last and greatest laboratory. Mr. Wirth holds master's degrees in history and library science from the State University of New York at Albany.

**Special program in July:

Reimagined Kinetoscopes: Film Demonstration & Hands on Workshop at the Black Maria**

**With MONO NO AWARE**

**Sunday, July 27th at 2:00 p.m.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
Call 973-736-0550 ext. 89**Using the technologies and practices originally used by Thomas Edison, MONO NO AWARE will help workshop participants re-enact classic kinetoscope films at the Black Maria using props provided by FilmBiz. Working in the same way that Edison did in the late 1800s, we will capture short sequences on black and white reversal film stock. Capture your sneeze, perform a dance, or simply wave at the camera. All the films will be processed on site and presented at a special screening that will take place at 4:00 p.m. After the screening, the films will be scanned and transferred to HD by DiJiFi for you to share with friends and family online. During the workshop cinema arts non-profit MONO NO AWARE will introduce the celluloid film format created in 1889 by George Eastman that allowed Thomas Alva Edison to develop the motion picture camera in 1891. Their partnership gave way to the birth of motion pictures in America.

MONO NO AWARE is a cinema arts non-profit organization based in Brooklyn New York. The group organizes an annual festival presenting films on celluloid film only. Throughout the year they host traveling filmmakers in a screenings series CONNECTIVITY THROUGH CINEMA with the presenting filmmakers in person for conversation with the audience. MONO NO AWARE rents traditional filmmaking equipment to the public, and leads educational initiatives year round that teach analogue filmmaking techniques with the support of other local film organizations: DiJiFi, FilmBiz, and Brooklyn Arts Council. - [*www.mononoawarefilm.com*](http://www.mononoawarefilm.com/)These programs are part of THE YEAR OF INNOVATION celebrating the New Jersey 350th Anniversary in 2014. Since 1664 New Jersey has provided a welcome home for inventors and entrepreneurs like Thomas Edison and there is no better place to learn about the history of innovation than Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange. Special programs each month explore the themes in EDISON AND THE RISE OF INNOVATION a book written by National Park Service archivist Leonard DeGraaf and published by Sterling Signature in October 2013. Another famous innovator – Bill Gates – has written the foreword to this fresh look at Thomas Edison. New programs for all ages will be offered monthly. For more information and updates about THE YEAR OF INNOVATION - First Friday, Second Saturday and Third Thursday events, please visit www.nps.gov/edis monthly. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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